

saddened by their long and needless separation, and outraged by the course of events that have torn their lives apart.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the Bahamian Government in the strongest possible terms to release Dr. Gonzalez-Mejias and Dr. Darias-Mesa to our custody, and I hope my colleagues will join me in this important humanitarian endeavor.

#### PRESIDENT'S BUDGET HURTS PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, this administration will go down as the most antilife in modern history. The President's budget is a moral document. It should promote life. Yet the President's new budget released Monday makes the wrong choices. It irresponsibly hurts future generations and saddles them with gigantic debt. It hurts them, it hurts people. It is irresponsible.

Let us start with health care. The President's budget will hurt people. It is a health care budget that is antilife. The Bush budget carves out over \$36 billion through 2011 from Medicare. Despite the fact that people cannot afford prescription drugs and costs are exploding, why is he forcing across-the-board cuts to future Medicare payments?

The chaos surrounding the new prescription drug benefit has already caused undue anxiety and lack of medication to thousands of our citizens too sick and too ill to fight back in lines at drugstores around our country. Seniors 80 years old with Parkinson's disease are being forced to go into drugstores confused without the help that they need. The President's budget is antilife.

At the same time, the President's new budget slashes our lead agencies to fight disease. They shortchange veterans' health care. Apparently, the Bush administration's idea of honoring service to our country is to make millions of veterans pay huge increases for health care costs that they have earned.

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The President's budget proposal includes legislation that would raise veterans' premiums to over 100 percent on prescription drugs. Additionally, the Bush administration has shortchanged the Department of Veterans Affairs, leaving it short of needed funds to take care of the expected influx of tens of thousands of injured and disabled veterans returning from Afghanistan and the Iraq war. His veterans budget is antilife.

The Bush budget offers words only and no substance to thrust our Nation into a new era of energy independence. For hard-hit consumers, he has offered

nothing. His policies, however, allow the huge oil giants to rack up even more profits. Take ExxonMobil that just racked up the largest profit of any corporation in U.S. history, \$36 billion in profits in just 1 year. Their profits in 1 year were larger than the entire budget of the U.S. Department of Energy. It is interesting to note that Exxon's windfall lifted the combined profits of the 2005 oil giants to \$63 billion, three times the size of the entire Department of Energy. His energy budget is anti-life.

There are people freezing and getting flu around this country because they have to set their thermostats down. His budget is anti-life. He refuses to see those people.

If the President was serious about helping people, he would be committed to making our Nation energy independent. He would have made new fuels a centerpiece of his State of the Union address. Instead, his budget eliminates all funding for new fuels to help expand the production of ethanol and biodiesel. His budget cuts renewable energy loans, bioenergy support value-added to help small companies get a start up. By almost \$100 million he shortchanges them.

And yet if we look at oil company profits, they have allowed CEOs in those firms to double their salaries and drive up their political contributions by a staggering \$450 million in the past 6 years. They know how to cash in. But what a great injustice to the vast majority of people. Their heating bills are going up. They are paying for gasoline. They do not have any sweetheart deals in this town to cut their taxes.

If you look at the weatherization program, the President is reducing funds there. If you look at the winter heating assistance program, the people applying have reached a 12-year high, but his budget is over \$2 billion short, \$2 billion short of what is needed just to take care of the people that we needed to take care of last year. But the oil companies have a \$63 billion profit, just the top three companies. What is wrong with this picture?

He has cut first responders. We know he has not gotten help to people affected by Katrina and Rita in the gulf.

And this says nothing about how his budget is anti-life against the youth of our country and children by causing tuition to go up at all of our schools. The Bush budget fails the moral test. It fails the ill. It fails our youth. It fails the future. It is the most anti-life budget in American history.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CAMPBELL of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of New Jersey addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IN HONOR OF THE BIRTHDAY OF MRS. HELEN GINGREY

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take my time this evening to address the House regarding a very important person, someone who has meant so much to me and without whom I could not be here today. Mrs. Helen Gingrey turned 88 today, February 8, 2006. I know that you, Mr. Speaker, along with all Members of this Chamber, Republicans and Democrats, will want to join me in wishing Mom a happy birthday.

It is important in this day and age for children to grow up in a strong family environment like the one my parents provided for me. And I would hope that as I continue my time in the United States House of Representatives representing the people of Georgia's 11th Congressional District, that my colleagues and I would always keep an eye on how our actions will affect the American families who are struggling to raise their children and to make ends meet.

Mr. Speaker, my mother has had a great life and has been a blessing to both her community of Kalmia Landing and Aiken, South Carolina and her family. Helen Gannon Gingrey is the daughter of Irish and Scottish immigrants. She was born in New York. She grew up in Astoria, Queens before marrying my father and moving to Edgefield, South Carolina.

My father, James Franklin Gingrey, Jimmy, a native South Carolinian, had moved to New York as an impoverished 16-year-old with little means of support. Several years later he had the good fortune of meeting my mom while he was working his way through New York City night school, and they married 8 months later. Shortly thereafter, Mom and Dad headed south with my 3-month-old brother in tow. While neither of my parents had the opportunity to obtain a college education, they worked hard in several small family businesses to assure that each of their three sons, myself, my brothers, Bill and James, got that college education.

Mr. Speaker, my dad and my mother were married for 44 years until his death in 1980. The ideals my parents instilled in me are ones of hard work, good education, personal responsibility, respect for others, love of family and country, and love of God. These are not only good principles for rearing a child, but they are also good guidelines for the initiatives we will continue to work on here in this 109th Congress.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge the House to use the example and the principles of Mrs. Helen Gannon Gingrey

and all loving mothers like her to set an agenda that will work to strengthen and support the most vital components of our great Nation, the American family.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FREEDOM OF EXPRESSION

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak in the gentleman from California's place.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, many of us want to join in wishing Mrs. Gingrey a happy birthday. And I guess we would say it is 8 o'clock, and she knows where her son is tonight at least.

Mr. Speaker, I am troubled by the assault on freedom of expression that we are seeing in the world today. I want to be very clear. The newspaper in Denmark, the name of which I will not even try to pronounce, had every right to print the cartoon. That does not mean the cartoon was not offensive or disrespectful. Free speech, freedom of expression means nothing if it does not mean the right to be mean and disrespectful and obnoxious. It is easy to be for free speech when it is polite and civil and when you agree with it.

One of the dangers that comes to free speech are those who say, well, yes, we believe in freedom of speech, but it should be respectful. We believe in freedom of speech, but it has to be reined in. No it does not. Freedom of expression means that as long as you are speaking or writing, as long as you are not acting, you are free to exercise what you think you need to say, what you think you need to write. Now, people who are offended by that writing have every right in return to be very critical and, indeed, even to boycott the organ that printed it.

But we see something today that is terribly frightening that goes far beyond it. First of all, we see this extraordinarily disproportionate violent reaction. I am struck that in parts of the Middle East and elsewhere, people who were apparently not moved to action by death and destruction and murder and famine, are moved to violence because somebody printed a cartoon. The values of people who put a cartoon ahead of serious damage to individuals as a cause of outrage are seriously deficient.

But it is also wrong when people say they are going to put pressure on the entire nation of Denmark because it will not censor a newspaper. Again, people have a right to boycott the newspaper. People who exercise their free speech have to expect there might be a response. But what we are being told is that people are going to punish the entire nation of Denmark because that government will not censor a newspaper. That is a terrible threat to free speech. It would be a grave error for the country of Denmark to give in. When I read that people are going to boycott Danish goods, I am myself moved to try to go out and buy some Danish food. I wish some of it was not quite so fattening, from what I look at.

But we must repudiate the notion that it is legitimate to punish the government and the country of that government because it will not censor a newspaper. That is a terrible threat to free speech. It is a threat to free speech again when people defend the newspaper in such a halfhearted way or when people say, well, they should not have printed that, and we understand why people are doing this. And freedom of speech must be tempered by respect for the views of others. No, it must not.

And I speak as someone who has espoused that principle in a variety of categories. I am Jewish and I believe that the Nazis had a legal right to march in Skokie, as despicable as I thought that was, as much as I thought people ought to have expressed their disagreement. I am a patriotic American, but I would not vote to put you in prison if you burned the American flag. And I must say, let us have some consistency here. People who are for jailing those who disrespect the American flag seem to me ought to be thinking about what kind of reaction they are seeing now because people dishonored the prophet Mohammed.

There are people who put their religion ahead of their country. That is not necessarily an irrational or an immoral thing to do. Let us be very careful. And by the way, I think that newspapers in the Arab world have a legal right to print vicious anti-Semitic cartoons that deny the Holocaust, that talk about "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion."

Again, let us have some consistency here. The consistency ought to be this: people have a right to write or say whatever they wish. People who are offended by that writing or that speech are entitled to retaliate, nonviolently, but by boycotts, by criticism from the person who expresses it. But when we see this kind of violence, when it is suggested that a cartoon justifies violence, when people are halfhearted in condemning the violence, when we have people say that it is legitimate to punish a government, not for publishing a cartoon, but for failing to censor the publication of that cartoon, then free speech is in danger.

So I think it is very important for us to say that people may have whatever

view they have about the cartoon, but we must speak up against what is a growing systematic campaign of intimidation that will result in a diminution of those important freedoms.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF NORTH CAROLINA SENATOR HAM HORTON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, last week the State of North Carolina lost one of its finest citizens, North Carolina Senator Hamilton "Ham" Horton. I had the great privilege of serving with Ham for 10 years in the North Carolina senate. I considered him to be not only a great role model and mentor but a trusted friend.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Senator Ham Horton for leading a rich life of service to others. I rise in trepidation because Senator Horton was such a wonderful orator and my skills are so inferior to his in intellect and expression.

Hamilton Cowles Horton, Jr., was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, on August 6, 1931. He was the great-grandson of Calvin Josiah Cowles, who represented Wilkes County in the United States Congress and the great-grandson of William Woods Holden, who was the Governor of North Carolina following the War Between the States. Obviously, public service was in Ham's blood from the start.

Ham went on to receive his bachelor's and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He served nine terms in the general assembly, one in the House, and the remainder in the State senate.

During his time in the general assembly, Ham gave impassioned and eloquent floor speeches on a wide range of topics. Whenever he took to the senate floor, Ham commanded the respect of everyone in his presence, Republicans and Democrats alike. I often said he was like E.F. Hutton: when he spoke, everyone listened. Ham had a strong sense of justice and doing what was right. He was an ardent supporter of the individual liberties bestowed by our Founding Fathers.

I will never forget when State inspectors tried to shut down a Winston-Salem market because it sold slices of country ham. Ham promptly introduced the Country Ham Preservation Act to exempt small markets from regulation on meat preparation. After all, he said, the only difference between tasting wine and tasting ham is that you spit out the wine and no one has been known to spit out the ham.

In all of my years in the senate, I have never seen a bill move so quickly. The senate passed the bill just 2 days after Ham filed it. Then the State House passed it the following day.

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Ham had a gift of bringing people together, despite partisan differences, to